

21 April 2024

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Victorian Energy Upgrades Induction Cooktops consultation paper.

We welcome the proposal to include the installation of induction cooktops in the VEU program. Victoria has a critical need to electrify homes to reduce dependence on fossil gas, reduce cost of living pressures on households from high gas costs, reduce the health impacts from indoor gas use in cooking, and meet the state's existing emissions reduction targets. Reducing the upfront costs of replacing gas cooking appliances with efficient, electric induction cooking is an important measure to support the broader electrification agenda.

In our view, induction stoves with fewer than 3 cooking zones should be eligible for inclusion in the VEU program. 2-zone stovetops are more likely to be installed in apartments and rental homes, which typically face higher barriers to electrification. Minimum regulated rental standards under the Residential Tenancies Act set two-zone cooking as a minimum. We are concerned that setting 3 cooking zones as a minimum would result in the disproportionate exclusion of these households. We would welcome further information about the considerations leading to the proposed minimum of 3 cooking zones.

We support the point-of-sale activity approach as the simplest way to ensure that households can benefit from the inclusion of induction cooking in VEU.

Renew does not object to the calculations provided in the issues paper proposing that an induction cooktop is eligible for 2 VEECs.

We would highlight that one of the key expected emissions benefits of induction stoves is that they remove a barrier to the full electrification of households. The amount of gas used in cooking is lower than the amount of gas used for heating and hot water. However, some households are less likely to remove these gas appliances if they retain gas cooking. Shifting to induction cooking provides a greater incentive to households to remove other gas appliances with higher direct emissions as it allows homes to avoid gas connection fees altogether. As such, the direct emissions savings from replacing a gas cooktop with induction cooking as stated in the issues paper may in fact understate the overall emissions savings when these indirect savings are taken into account.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at rob.mcleod@renew.org.au should you require further information or wish to discuss any matter referred to above.

Yours faithfully,



Rob McLeod
Policy and Advocacy Manager
Renew